



## News Release

**For Immediate Release**  
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### **First Confirmed Case of West Nile Virus in Utah**

*From Dusk to Dawn, Put Your DEET On*

(Salt Lake City, UT) – Health officials in Southeastern Utah District Health Department (SEUDHD) have confirmed one human case of West Nile virus (WNV). The virus has also been detected in a mosquito population in Salt Lake County. “We know West Nile virus is here and we want people to take the proper precautions,” said JoDee Summers, epidemiologist at the Utah Department of Health (UDOH).

David Cunningham, Health Director for SEUDHD, reports the process of investigating the confirmed case is in the early stages, but the individual is between the ages of 40 and 64 from the Grand County area. “It’s our understanding the individual was being treated for neuroinvasive WNV and is expected to recover.”

“We want people to enjoy the outdoors,” said Cunningham, “but remember to take the necessary precautions to reduce your risk of being bitten by mosquitoes.”

The risk of serious illness from WNV increases with age, but there is no age at which there is no risk. During the 2006 season, 158 human cases of WNV were reported to public health; 53 of the cases were severe and there were 5 deaths. These cases ranged in age from six to 86 years.

With the Fourth of July holiday rapidly approaching, many Utahns are thinking about

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outdoor activities such as camping, boating or picnics with family and friends. However, the risk of getting West Nile virus (WNV) increases along with summer temperatures and the number of mosquitoes. This Fourth of July, remember to put mosquito repellent containing DEET into your vehicle, backpack or purse.

Local retailers have mosquito repellent with DEET available for purchase in anticipation of the mosquito season. You can also find convenient towelettes that are easy to carry and use, and many manufacturers have developed mosquito repellent that is odorless and non-sticky. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has also approved repellent containing picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus for effective protection against WNV. So remember to take your mosquito repellent with DEET along with the family on this holiday weekend, and use it on all family members over the age of two months. You can also consider a stroller netting for babies during outdoor activities. Put your DEET on from dusk until dawn, and for added protection wear long sleeves and pants. For more information visit the UDOH Web site at [www.health.utah.gov/wnv](http://www.health.utah.gov/wnv) or SEUDHD's Web site at [www.southeastuthealth.org](http://www.southeastuthealth.org).

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*The mission of the Utah Department of Health is to protect the public's health through preventing avoidable illness, injury, disability and premature death, assuring access to affordable, quality health care, and promoting healthy lifestyles.*